

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, 15, and 18 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mack II et al. (USP 6,510,325) in view of Hanaoka (USP 5,757,332). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11, and 12 have been canceled.

(Independent Claim 1)

Mack discloses, in Fig. 5, a portable communication device 1 (having a camera) accommodating attachment of a strap 26 used to hold the device 1 to the user's head while the user engages in strenuous activities such as jogging (see col. 3, line 66 - col. 4, line 3). As shown in Fig. 5, apertures 25 are placed in an upper wing 11 and a lower wing 12 of the device 1. The strap 26 is inserted through the apertures 25 and used to secure the device 1 to the head of the user (see col. 7, lines 35-39).

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action, Mack does not disclose a non-communicating purpose component being a conductive component, which also serves as a radio antenna.

Therefore, the Examiner relies on the Hanaoka reference, which shows, in Fig. 1A, a portable TV receiver 1 provided with a strap antenna 3 extending from a housing 2.

Applicants, respectfully submit that, in Mack, the strap 26 (corresponds to the “non-communicating purpose component” of the claimed invention of the present application) is adapted to extend between the upper and lower wings 11, 12, such that it makes contact with a back of user’s head.

Therefore, even assuming that Mack and Hanaoka can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one skilled in the art would, at best, conceive the portable communication device 1 of Mack having a strap 26 having a function of the strap antenna 3 as disclosed by Hanaoka.

The strap of Mack having a function of the strap antenna is not “disposed where the non-communication purpose component is not unconsciously touched by a user during” an operation of the portable communication device 1.

(Dependent Claims 2, 3, 6, 10, and 13)

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 13, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Further, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that it is well known in the art to configure any conductive component of an electronic communication device as an antenna in order to reduce the number of parts and miniaturize the device in the context of the claimed invention of the present application.

Applicants agree that one skilled in the art would attempt to reduce the number of parts in an electronic device in order to miniaturize the device and to reduce cost of the device. For example, a single button or a switch of a digital camera may be designed to have a plurality of functions to reduce the number of buttons and switches. Similarly, a display unit of a digital

camera may be designed to selectively display a large number of information in order to reduce the size of the display unit.

However, it does not mean that one skilled in the art would attempt to use “any conducting parts” of an electronic device as an antenna. For example, there are digital cameras where a user can send image data to a PC by using a wireless connection. However, as disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 9-116778, an antenna for transmitting and receiving signals to and from the PC is provided outside the camera and does not have a non-communicating purpose. Moreover, some of the recent digital cameras have an antenna provided inside a camera body, but the antenna does not have a non-communicating purpose.

Even the Examiner can only show the communication device of Hanaoka, which has a strap antenna 3 that serves as both a strap and an antenna. However, the strap antenna 3 is intended to be used by a user during an operation of the communication device to prevent the communication device from moving inside the user’s hand or from accidentally dropping the device.

In view of this, Applicants respectfully submit that using the hot shoe, reflector, or the ring member as an antenna is not an admitted prior art. If the Examiner maintains that it is, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner “point to some concrete evidence in the record in support of these findings” to satisfy the substantial evidence test, as required in the MPEP § 2144.04.

One skilled in the art may attempt to reduce the size of an electronic circuit by decreasing the number of components in the circuit, and reduce the size of a lens unit.

Further, with regard to claim 2, none of cited references taken singly or in combination discloses or suggests attaching the hot shoe “to the camera housing through an insulating spacer and an insulating washer by a hot-shoe fixing screw,” as required in claim 2.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 14-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagishi (USP 6,710,807) in view of Hanaoka. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 has been canceled.

(Claim 14)

Yamagishi discloses, in Fig. 1, an image sensing apparatus having an image sensing apparatus 1 and a lens unit 300 attached to the apparatus 1.

The Examiner states, in the Office Action, that Yamagishi discloses at least one member, a lens tube for supporting the lens therein. The Examiner further states, with regard to claim 15, that the “lens tube (300) is provided at a portion of said camera where a user of said camera does not unconsciously touch or unconsciously cover said radio antenna during the operation of the camera (see figure 1, element 100).”

Applicants submit that figure 1 of Yamagishi is merely a block diagram showing an arrangement of an image sensing apparatus, and does not even show an actual (or physical) layout of the apparatus. Applicants clearly do not understand how figure 1 of Yamagishi can be interpreted to show that the lens unit 100 is provided at a portion of said camera where a user of said camera does not unconsciously touch or unconsciously cover . . . during the operation of the camera.” Absent any teaching by Yamagishi that the lens unit 100 is provided at a portion of the

camera where a user of said camera does not unconsciously touch or unconsciously cover during the operation of the camera, the Examiner rejected claim 14 in hindsight.

As stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1, Hanaoka merely shows, in Fig. 1A, a portable TV receiver 1 provided with a strap antenna 3 extending from a housing 2. As previously stated, a strap is intended to be used by a user during an operation of the apparatus to prevent the apparatus from moving inside the user's hand or from accidentally dropping the apparatus.

In view of this, even assuming that Yamagishi and Hanaoka can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, Yamagishi in view of Hanaoka fails to disclose or suggest a "non-communicating purpose component being disposed where the non-communication purpose component is not unconsciously touched by a user during a picture taking operation," as required in claim 14.

(Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20)

Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20, dependent on claim 14, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 14.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that it is not well known in the art to configure any conductive component of an electronic communication device as an antenna in the context of the claimed invention of the present application at least for the reasons stated in the foregoing with regard to claims 2, 3, and 6.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

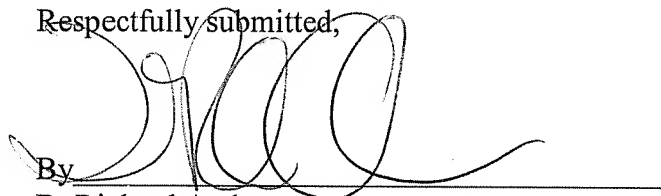
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Anderson', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

By
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